

October 5, 1962

Mr. Cass Canfield  
49 East 33rd Street  
New York 16, New York

Dear Mr. Canfield:

I am in full accord with the aims expressed in your letter of October 3, and would like to lend my support to them.

However, I oppose the designation of the "Nobel Prize Winners" as a corporate body with special representative authority or responsibility, whatever irresistible impact that lightning stroke may have had on our individual roles. Such a designation may be relatively harmless when the corporation is polled on such a non-controversial issue as population control. But I am alarmed at the prospect of being pushed to make a public declaration on other issues, or having an "abstention" become a matter of public record and interest.

Accordingly, I will be very happy to sign the statement, provided only that it is not attributed to the "American Winners of the Nobel Prize". If there were more time I would also ask that its endorsement be open to a much larger group.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

JL:edf

P.S. I am sorry I will be unable to attend the dinner on October 22 and will be away next week (which hinders any further resolution of the issue I bring up hereinabove). But all success to you.

Canfield